

**BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS AND  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**May 11, 2012**

**Open Session**

**The Open Session of the Board of Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists was called to order on the above date in Room 104, Cannon Building, Rhode Island Department of Health, Three Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meeting Law, so called, and other applicable provisions of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as amended. A quorum was established at 10:15 am.**

**Board members in attendance:**

**Joseph Costa**

**Terrence Giblin**

**Noelle Harris**

**Elizabeth Johnson**

**Ronald Mancini**

**James Pinel**

**Board members not in attendance:**

**Dale Blumen**

**Staff members in attendance:**

## **Rosemary Sheets**

### **Others Present:**

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**The minutes of the meeting held on April 13, 2012 were presented. On motion of Terrence Giblin, seconded by Ronald Mancini, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes.**

### **Business**

**The invitation and registration forms for the NBCC Annual State Boards Meeting were distributed to the Board. Registration is due by May 15, 2012 for the meeting that will be held in Greensboro, NC on August 9 and August 10, 2012. NBCC will pay travel and expenses for one staff person and one board member. Ronald Mancini indicated an interest in attending the annual meeting for state counselor licensing boards and will contact NBCC to register.**

**The board discussed a question that was posed to one of the board members by a RIC ethics professor regarding why the board adopted the NBCC Code of Ethics rather than the ACA Code of Ethics. The board recollected that they had previously reviewed both codes and decided the NBCC code was preferable. The board suggested it would be helpful to know which of the two codes other states have adopted.**

**Board member Noelle Harris presented a question regarding how many Category II CEU credits are given for attending a semester long graduate level course. This board administrator had conducted research of graduate course credits and CEU's in SC, IN, NE, VT, WY and FL regulations in addition to the NBCC continuing education requirements for National Certified Counselors and reported that the consensus is one (1) semester credit or hour is equal to fifteen (15) CE clock hours. Therefore, a three (3) credit course would yield forty-five (45) CEU's. The board suggested that it would be helpful if this clarification is added to the Rhode Island Rules and Regulations For Licensing Mental Health Counselors and Marriage And Family Therapists.**

**There was a discussion of the process to amend the statute and regulations. The board was informed by this administrator that a discussion was held with the MHC/MFT board attorney Tom Corrigan to give him a synopsis of possible amendments. Mr. Corrigan suggested the board meet with the Rhode Island educational institutions that offer counseling programs prior to submitting amendments to the General Assembly. The board agreed that RIC, Salve Regina University and Roger Williams University will be invited to an early fall meeting to review and discuss any proposed amendments as they are the RI institutions that offer(ed) counseling degrees. The issue of Rhode Island's practicum and internship hours in relation to the American Mental Health Counselors Association**

**(AMHCA) recommendation to adopt the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) standards as well as the supervised experience requirement was discussed. The board agreed that the Rhode Island mental health counselor practicum and internship statutory requirements need to be reviewed in comparison to other states in order to determine if the board wishes to amend them to match the CACREP model i.e., the “spirit of CACREP”. The AMHCA has adopted CACREP standards and recommends that state boards include the standards in their respective Mental Health Counselor regulations. The board agreed to conduct research of various states’ regulations for comparison and utilize the scheduled July 13th meeting to discuss findings with attorney Tom Corrigan.**

### **Application Review**

**There were no applications that required board review.**

### **Adjournment to Executive Session**

**On motion of Joseph Costa, seconded by Ronald Mancici, it was unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, as Amended, in that confidential issues of fitness for licensure and investigative cases will be discussed. The Open Session adjourned at 11:00 am.**

## **Return to Open Session**

**The Open Session was called back to order at 11:20 am.**

**On motion of Terrence Giblin, seconded by Joseph Costa, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in Executive Session and to seal those minutes of the meeting inasmuch as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed. The Board voted unanimously on the following:**

**Case # 2012-02-MFT A letter will be sent to the licensee to appear before the board at the September 14, 2012 Board of Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapist meeting.**

## **Adjournment**

**Having no further business, on motion of Noelle Harris, seconded by Elizabeth Johnson, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. The Open Session of the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Rosemary Sheets**

**Board Administrator, Health Professions Regulation**